

CONFIDENTIAL.]

[No. 53 of 1887.

REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 31st December 1887.

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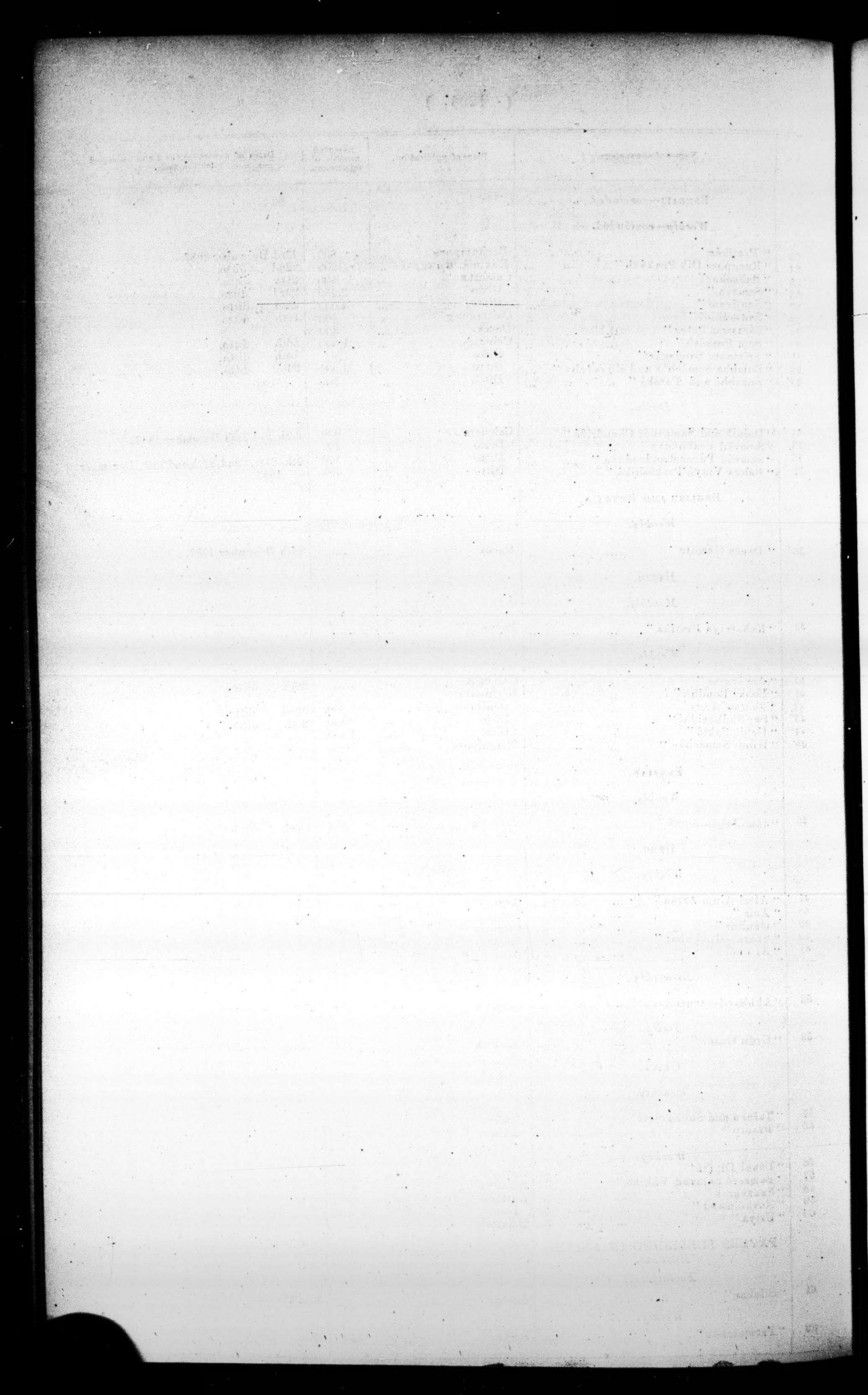
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LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week
BENGALI.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Ahammadí"	Tangail, Mymensingh..	.....
2	"Kasipore Nibási"	Kasipore, Burrisal ...	.....
<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
3	"Ave Maria"	Calcutta	...	.....
4	"Grambási"	Uluberia	...	.....
5	"Gaura Duta"	Maldah	...	.....
6	"Púrva Bangabási"	Noakhally	...	.....
7	"Purva Darpan"	Chittagong	...	700
8	"Uttara Banga Hitaishi"	Mahiganj, Rungpore...	.....	30th November 1887.
<i>Weekly.</i>				
9	"Arya Darpan"	Calcutta	102	23rd December 1887.
10	"Bangabási"	Calcutta	20,000	24th ditto.
11	"Burdwán Sanjívaní"	Burdwan	302	20th ditto.
12	"Cháruvártá"	Sherepore, Mymensingh	500	19th ditto.
13	"Chattal Gazette"	Chittagong	...	.....
14	"Dacca Prakásh"	Dacca	450	25th ditto.
15	"Dhumaketu"	Chandernagore	...	.....
16	"Education Gazette"	Hooghly	825	23rd ditto.
17	"Garíb and Mahavidya"	Dacca	.....	21st ditto.
18	"Hindu Ranjiká"	Beauleah, Rajshahye...	200	21st ditto.
19	"Murshidábád Patriká"	Berhampore	508	
20	"Murshidábád Pratinidhi"	Ditto	.....	2nd and 23rd December 1887.
21	"Navajivánákar Sádháraní"	Calcutta	1,000	26th December 1887.
22	"Prajá Bandhu"	Chandernagore	995	23rd ditto.

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
BENGALI—concluded.				
Weekly—concluded.				
23	" Pratikár "	Berhampore	600	23rd December 1887.
24	" Rungpore Dik Prakás̄h "	Kakiniá, Rungpore	205	22nd ditto.
25	" Sahacha "	Calcutta	500	21st ditto.
26	" Samava "	Ditto	2,350	23rd ditto.
27	" Sanjivani "	Ditto	4,000	24th ditto.
28	" Sansodhiuñ "	Chittagong	800	16th ditto.
29	" Sáraswat Patra "	Dacca	400	
30	" Som Prakás̄h "	Calcutta	1,000	26th ditto.
31	" Srímantā Saudagár "	Ditto	.....	14th ditto.
32	" Sulabha Samáchár and Kusadaha "	Ditto	3,000	23rd ditto.
33	" Surabhi and Patáká "	Ditto	700	
Daily.				
34	" Dainik and Samachár Chandriká "	Calcutta	7,000	26th and 28th December 1887.
35	" Samvád Prabhákar "	Ditto	200	
36	" Samvád Purnachandrodaya "	Ditto	300	9th, 21st, 22nd, 27th and 28th December 1887.
37	" Banga Vidyá Prakáshiká "	Ditto	500	
ENGLISH AND BENGALI.				
Weekly.				
38	" Dacca Gazette "	Dacca	.....	26th December 1887.
HINDI.				
Monthly.				
39	" Kshetriya Pratiká "	Patna	.....
Weekly.				
40	" Aryávarta "	Calcutta	.....	20th ditto.
41	" Behar Bandhu "	Bankipore	.....
42	" Bhárat Mitra "	Calcutta	1,500	22nd ditto.
43	" Sár Sudhánidhi "	Ditto	500	26th ditto.
44	" Uchit Baktá "	Ditto	4,500	
45	" Hindi Samáchár "	Bhagulpore	1,000	
PERSIAN.				
Weekly.				
46	" Jám-Jahán-numá "	Calcutta	250	23rd ditto.
URDU.				
Weekly.				
47	" Aftal Alum Arrah "	Arrah	.....	21st ditto.
48	" Anis "	Patna	.....	20th ditto.
49	" Gauhur "	Calcutta	196	
50	" Sharaf-ul-Akhbar "	Behar	150	
51	" Al Punch "	Bankipore	.....
Bi-weekly.				
52	" Akhbar-i-darusaltanat "	Calcutta	340	21st ditto.
Daily.				
53	" Urdu Guide "	Calcutta	212	22nd to 26th and 28th December 1887.
URIYA.				
Monthly.				
54	" Taraka and Subhávártá "	Cuttack	.....
55	" Pradip "	Ditto	.....
Weekly.				
56	" Utkal Dípiká "	Cuttack	200	
57	" Balasore Samvad Váhika "	Balasore	205	
58	" Sanskárak "	Cuttack	200	
59	" Navasamvád "	Ditto	.....
60	" Uriya "	Balasore	.....
PAPERS PUBLISHED IN ASSAM.				
BENGALI.				
Fortnightly.				
61	" Silchar "	Silchar	.....	19th December 1887.
Weekly.				
62	" Paridarshak "	Sylhet	450	19th ditto.



I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

The *Sahachar*, of the 21st December, says that Government
Thibet and Sikkim. ought not to lend its ears to the proposal of
the Anglo-Indians to occupy Sikkim. Sikkim

SAHACHAR,
Dec. 21st, 1887.

is under the paramountcy of Thibet, which in its turn is under the paramountcy of China. Thus, interference in the affairs of Sikkim may lead to a collision with Thibet, and therefore ultimately with China. And supposing that Sikkim is easily occupied, will not its occupation, by creating dissatisfaction in Thibet and China, give rise to difficulties in the way of establishing that very commercial intercourse with Thibet, for the establishing whereof this unjust proposal for the annexation of Thibet is being urged upon the Government?

2. The *Bangabási*, of the 24th December, is alarmed at the rumour
Russophobia. that Russian passes have been found in the possession of two Cabuli fruit-dealers who

BANGABÁSI,
Dec. 24th, 1887.

lately died at Dehli. The Amir of Cabul may be friendly to the English, but the people of Afghanistan are hostile to them. It will be easy for Russia to secure the good-will of the Afghans because the Afghans are unfriendly to England. This is proved by the fact of the two Cabulis having had Russian passes in their possession. Every year a large number of Cabuli fruit-sellers and cloth merchants travel in the interior of this country, exercising terrorism over the people by their ruffianly demeanour. The Government of India ought to keep a sharp eye upon the men and to prevent their intriguing with the people. A goldsmith, named Sohan Lal, has been arrested in the Jhind State for having in his possession some seditious correspondence with Dhuleep Singh. This must be very serious if true. Dhuleep Singh may not have at present any influence in the Punjab, but by persistent effort he may succeed in creating a disturbance.

Dhuleep Singh was formerly one of the most loyal subjects of the British Government, but a systematic neglect of his claims on the part of England has made him a deadly enemy of the Government. The British Government should now endeavour to conciliate Dhuleep Singh by kind and just treatment with a view to avert future complications.

3. The *Dainik and Samáchár Chandriká*, on the 26th December, says
Sikkim. that the pretexts put forward by the Anglo-Indian Press to justify an annexation of

DAINIK & SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Dec. 26th, 1887.

Sikkim are of a class with those urged by Englishmen to justify their interference in Egyptian affairs. Turkey desires that British influence should be supreme in Egypt. This is what Englishmen then said as their reason for interfering in Egyptian affairs, and they are now saying about the same thing about the people of Sikkim. It has now transpired, however, that Turkey never desired British supremacy in Egypt.

England may be able to annex Sikkim by sheer force or by stratagem and in spite of Thibet, but she can ill-afford to vex or defy China. Her object, it is clear, is to open commercial relations with Thibet. She has cast an evil eye upon Sikkim. She should, however, desist from a course so unworthy of her position as a mighty power.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

4. A correspondent of the *Gauhar*, of the 20th December, says that
Robbery at Metiaburj in broad daylight. his servant was robbed by two persons near
the house of Altaf-ud-doulah at Metiaburj at 4 P.M. on the 17th December last. The police is requested to be on
the alert.

GAUHAR,
Dec. 20th, 1887.

SANJIVANI,
Dec. 24th, 1887.

The Pursura police, sub-division
Jehansabad.

5. The *Sanjivani*, of the 24th December, says that a theft took place on the night of the 11th December last at the house of one Gopalchandra De of Banagram near Bhangamora. Information of the theft was sent to the Pursura outpost on the following morning. The jemadar of the outpost came at 3 P.M. to investigate the case, and tried to dissuade Gopal from laying information of the theft before the police. But Gopal would not be dissuaded from doing so, and gave his deposition. But his deposition was not read out to him. About 60 or 70 men of Banagram and the adjoining villages suspected Purna Dom and Jagneswar Dom of the theft. But the police neither posted constables at their houses nor sent constables to bring them from the houses of their fathers-in-law, whither they were stated to have gone. On the 16th, both Purna and Jagneswar came to the police outpost and confessed that they had committed the theft with the help of Becharam Kundu of Banagram and a released convict named Dina Dome of Siyali. Purna further stated that he had received four rupees as his share of the booty, and that the rest of the stolen goods was with Kali Kundu, the father of Becharam Kundu. But the police placed no guard at Kali's house. It informed Kali next day that his house would be searched, but the search was made long after the notice. And then when the police did make the search, it seemed to make it very unwillingly. It is not also easy to understand why the police was satisfied with simply searching the house of Kali Kundu and the house of the mistress of Dina Dom, and did not search Kali Kundu's shop and Dina Dom's own house. The police released the accused persons on bail on the 18th. The law says that an accused person who confesses his guilt should be forthwith sent to the nearest Magistrate in order that his confession may be recorded. But the jemadar says that he did not send the accused persons to the Magistrate because the confessions they made were of an incredible nature, and the confession made by one of them differed from that of the other. But it is open to doubt whether a police jemadar or even an Inspector of Police has the right to decide whether or not the confession of an accused person is credible. Criminals are not being brought to justice in Bhangamora on account of the unsatisfactory nature of the police investigations there, and the result is that serious crimes are being committed in Bhangamora at intervals of 10 or 12 days. The authorities are requested to attend to the matter, and to judge whether or not the jemadar of Pursura is guilty of neglect of duty. The writer is informed that the outstill at Khusigunge is the only cause of the prevalence of crimes in Bhangamora.

SANJIVANI.

The police.

6. The same paper says that the bad name of the Bengal Police is owing to the following causes :—

- (1.) Its bad behaviour towards the people.
- (2.) The predominance of ignorant people in it.
- (3.) Corruption.
- (4.) Oppression.
- (5.) Its want of justice.

In order to save itself from trouble, the police records informations in its diary in such a mutilated form as does not render it necessary for it to go out on investigation. And when it does go out on investigation, it tries hard to make out that a dacoity is only a theft, that a robbery is only an

unlawful assembly, and that a murder is only a suicide. Another dishonest practice of the police is that it goes out on investigation without first recording informations in its diary, and that it records informations only if its investigation proves successful. The police also puts a lower value upon stolen articles than it ought to do, because it is anxious that its incompetency may not be exposed by the value of unrecovered stolen articles appearing to be very high. It also presses complainants to name the persons whom they suspect. This practice often leads to the oppression of innocent persons. It also enables the police to secure the assistance of the accused persons in prosecuting complainants under section 211 of the Penal Code. For the accused are naturally incensed against the complainants for naming them to the police.

(b)—*Working of the Courts.*

7. A correspondent of the *Sansodhini*, of the 16th December, says that there was an affray between the Mussulmans of Patherghatta and Firinghi Bazar on the occasion of the last Mohurum festival. Four Mussulmans of Firinghi Bazar have been punished for this. But the correspondent says that one or two Mussulmans of Patherghatta ought also to have been punished. The principal witness in the case, the local Deputy Magistrate, found Abdul Aziz of Patherghatta with a club in his hand. Why then was Abdul Aziz not summoned?

SANSODHINI,
Dec. 16th, 1887.

8. The *Cháruvártá*, of the 19th December, complains of irregularities in the munshikhana of the Mymensingh Collectorate. The sheristadar is requested to see that suitors are not unnecessarily harassed and put to trouble by the amlah, and that the latter regularly attend the office. Casual leave is too often granted in this office.

CHARUVARTA,
Dec. 19th, 1887.

9. A correspondent of the *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 20th December, condemns the appointment of Moulvi Ahmed as Joint-Magistrate of Burdwan in place of Mr. Tayler, the present Joint-Magistrate, on the ground of the Moulvi's incompetence. As the Magistrate will be absent from town during the cold season, his work will have to be done by the Joint-Magistrate, who should thus be a competent man. Such a man Mr. Ahmed is not.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
Dec. 20th, 1887.

Such is Mr. Ahmed's idea of justice and fair play that while on the Bench he tries every means to worry the party against whom he happens to conceive a prejudice, so much so that he does not even receive or file any petition from such a party lest it should lead to something untoward in a higher court. He has another serious failing. He does not read out, nor does he show, the orders that he passes upon petitions, and simply recommends the parties concerned to obtain copies of the same. There is no law warranting such conduct. Mr. Ahmed does not consider how hard it must be for poor people to take out copies of documents at every step.

As soon as a case comes up before him, his first attempt is not to allow it to go on. He will first of all order a police enquiry, and if that fails, he will call for the plaintiff's evidence before calling for the defendant's. The next thing he does is to make an order dismissing the case. If a man succeeds in moving a higher court to order a re-trial, the final result is still the same—the case is dismissed.

A few months ago Mr. Ahmed had to try a police case—a rather serious one, as it involved rioting, wounding with a gun, &c.,—which came

up from Jougram. After recording the evidence of the plaintiff and examining him, Mr. Ahmed framed his charge against the defendants, and then invited cross-examination from the defendants' side. He said to the defendant's mukhtear:—"If you put me to trouble, I shall put you to trouble." He ordered the defendant to be kept in *hajut*, although the section under which he framed his charge did not authorise such a proceeding. He then allowed bail on being compelled by the defendants' pleaders to do so. The defendants moved the High Court to transfer the case from Mr. Ahmed's Court on these grounds, and the case was transferred.

PRAJA BANDHU,
Dec. 23rd, 1887.

10. The *Prajá Bandhu*, of the 23rd December, says that the Sessions Judge of Midnapore has very rightly dealt leniently by a person who murdered his

elder brother on catching him in the very act of adultery with his wife, assigning as his reason that "any man would do the same thing if he found his wife so intriguing." It is recommended that the High Court should keep this wise decision in mind when it decides a case of the same kind which has been referred to it by the Sessions Judge of Alipore.

BANGABASI,
Dec. 24th, 1887.

11. The *Bangabási*, of the 24th December, complains of the high-handed proceedings of Mr. Holmwood, Joint-Magistrate of Alipore. It is reported that

Mr. Holmwood to undergo imprisonment for ten days. The High Court, on being moved on his behalf, ordered Russick Lal to be released on bail on the 13th December. This order reached Mr. Holmwood on the 14th, between 4 and 5 P.M., before he left Court, but he took no notice of it. On the following day the mukhtear for the prisoner presented him a petition, praying that the order of the High Court might be carried out. But he took no notice of the petition, and left Court at 2 o'clock without taking any notice of the order of the High Court. Mr. B. K. Dutt, the prisoner's counsel, stated to the Judges of the High Court who heard this matter that the prisoner's term of imprisonment was only ten days, and Mr. Holmwood's refusal to carry out the order of the High Court had therefore resulted in his client's undergoing the full term of imprisonment, and the rule which he had obtained from the High Court had thus become practically inoperative. The Hon'ble Justices Wilson and Tottenham have stated that they will consider what order they should pass under the circumstances. The judgment of their Lordships is awaited with interest, and people are also anxious to see how Mr. Holmwood is dealt with by the just Sir Steuart Bayley.

BANGABASI.

12. The same paper says that a numerously-signed petition has been presented to the Lieutenant-Governor, protesting against the abolition of the Ghoshgaon Munsifi in Mymensingh on grounds which appear to be just. It is hoped that the Government will consider the matter, and see that the interests of the parties concerned do not suffer.

SANJIVANI,
Dec. 24th, 1887.

13. The *Sanjivani*, of the 24th December, says that Bengali students have become such an eye-sore to Englishmen that when one of them happens to be tried by an English Judge he cannot escape corporal punishment. The writer then gives, by way of illustration, a letter from the student of Dacca whom the Judge of that place wanted to have prosecuted and flogged for the alleged offence of having created disturbances in his Court. The student writes that he was informed by his Professor, Mr. Edward, that the Judge was so indignant with him that he wished to have him flogged, and that it was only with the greatest difficulty that he

The abolition of the Ghoshgaon Munsifi.

(Mr. Edward) had been able to persuade the Judge to let him off with a fine of Rs. 15.

14. A correspondent of the *Som Prakash*, of the 26th December, says that the public have to suffer much inconvenience from the frequent absence of the Honorary Magistrates of Santipore from the local bench. They were absent on the 12th December last, and if the records of cases for one year be examined, it will be found that there could be no sitting of the bench on many other days on account of the non-attendance of the Honorary Magistrates. The correspondent wishes that the Magistrate of Nuddea and the Presidency Commissioner will attend to the matter.

The Honorary Magistrates of Santipore.
A post office case.

15. The *Dainik and Samachar Chandriká*, of the 28th December, approves of the order passed by the Chief Presidency Magistrate of Calcutta on an application

SOM PRAKASH,
Dec. 26th, 1887.

DAINIK & SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Dec. 28th, 1887.

made by Mr. Hume on behalf of the Postmaster-General of Bengal for the issue of a warrant of distress against one Mrs. Phillips for the recovery of one anna, being postage alleged to be due on a letter sent by her by post and returned to her through the Dead Letter Office. It would be most dangerous to authorise any Postmaster-General or any officer in charge of a post office acting under the order of a Postmaster-General to recover fines by a distress warrant without allowing the Magistrate, who is applied to for a warrant, to judge the merits of the case. The authority granted to the post office to refuse to carry letters for those who will not pay such fines appears to be sufficient. The writer agrees with the Chief Presidency Magistrate in thinking that such a procedure, as he was asked by the applicant in this case to take, was not authorised or contemplated in the law.

(d)—*Education.*

16. The *Sansodhini*, of the 16th December, publishes a letter from Pandit Chandra Kanta Vidyaratna, of the

Bengali in the higher examinations
of the Calcutta University.

Chittagong College, in which the pandit says
that the study neither of Sanskrit nor of

Bengali ought to be neglected in the Calcutta University. Those who read only Sanskrit are found to make shameful mistakes in writing even common Bengali words, and take more time to finish their Sanskrit studies than they would if they read Bengali along with Sanskrit. Again those who read only Bengali can never write perfectly grammatical Bengali. There should therefore be both Sanskrit and Bengali in all the University examinations. And it will be no strain upon the boys if they are required to read both Sanskrit and Bengali. For, with a good knowledge of Bengali, they will find their Sanskrit studies much easier than they now do. For the paper on translation and essay writing in Bengali, they may therefore be made to pass an examination in some good Bengali books.

SANSODHINI,
Dec. 16th, 1887.

17. A correspondent of the *Charuvarta*, of the 19th December, says that Sarat Baboo, the head pundit of the

The head pundit of the Essurgunge
school in Mymensingh.

Essurgunge school, has gone away. Before his departure he secretly took an address from

his pupils. So even the Department of Education has caught the disease of taking addresses!

CHARUVARTA,
Dec. 19th, 1887.

18. The *Sulabh Samachar and Kushdaha*, of the 23rd December, says that Mahamahopadhyaya Mahesh Chandra

The Sanskrit College, Calcutta.

Nyayaratna will teach English literature in the

F. A. class of the Sanskrit College. This will certainly put the pundit in an awkward position.

SULABH SAMACHAR &
KUSHDAHA,
Dec. 23rd, 1887.

SULUBH SAMACHAR &
KUSHDAHA.
Dec. 23rd, 1887.

19. Referring to the objections raised by some Englishmen to the selection of Baboo Bholanath Pal's book as a text-book for the Entrance candidates, the same paper asks whether those objections are owing to race feeling or to jealousy. It is a matter for congratulation that the Syndicate have paid no attention to these objections.

SAMAYA,
Dec. 23rd, 1887.

Baboo Bholanath Pal's University text-book.
Baboo Saradarajan Roy and Rajkumar Sen as University Examiners.

20. A correspondent of the *Samaya*, of the 23rd December, says that the announcement that Baboos Saradarajan Roy and Rajkumar Sen are chief examiners in Mathematics in the Entrance Examination has filled the minds of the Dacca students with consternation. Both of them are known to be very strict Examiners, and there is therefore no hope of boys of ordinary merit passing the examination.

DAINIK & SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA.
Dec. 26th, 1887.

Rungpore as a centre for the Uni-
versity Entrance Examination.

21. A correspondent of the *Dainik and Samáchár Chandriká*, of the 26th December, writes to say that candidates for the Entrance Examination from Rungpore are greatly inconvenienced by having to travel a long way to attend the examination. The head-master of the local school had applied to the Registrar through the Inspector of Schools asking him to fix Rungpore as one of the centres for the Entrance Examination, but the request was not complied with. If Rungpore is made a centre, it will be extremely advantageous to students belonging to the districts of Rungpore, Dinagepore and Julpigoree. The present Registrar is a Bengali; he can readily understand the wants of the natives, and he will, it is hoped, grant the prayer to make Rungpore a centre for the Entrance Examination.

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

UTTARA BANGA
HITAISHI,
Nov. 30th, 1887.

22. The *Uttara Banga Hitaishi*, of the 30th November, reports the prevalence of fever at Rungpore. A canal was excavated at the suggestion of Dr. K. D. Ghose for the purpose of allowing the impure water of the town of Rungpore to run out. The health of the town was much improved by the cutting of this canal. The channel of the canal is now obstructed by the growth of weeds and aquatic plants. The Municipal Commissioners of Rungpore are requested to make arrangements for keeping the channel clear of all such obstructions.

MURSHIDABAD
PRATINIDHI,
Dec. 2nd, 1887.

23. The *Murshidabad Pratinidhi*, of the 2nd December, says that the Commissioners of the Berhampore Municipality should prohibit the sale within that Municipality of all adulterated articles or of articles made of bad stuff. During the last cholera season the prohibition did much good, and it would be desirable to make the prohibition a standing order throughout the year.

SANSODHINI,
Dec. 16th, 1887.

24. The *Sansodhini*, of the 16th December, says that the prosecution of Abdul Hamid, the late head clerk of the Chittagong Municipality, is still dragging its slow length along. They greatly err who think that if an exemplary punishment is meted out to Abdul Hamid, all the municipal amlahs will be more careful in future. Punishments have not generally the deterrent effect which they are usually supposed to possess. What the Municipality ought to do in order to prevent defalcations, &c., is to make its superior officers exercise a regular careful supervision over the subordinate officers. The Municipality should not go on wasting the poor rate-payers' money on useless prosecutions.

Abdul Hamid, late head clerk of the Chittagong Municipality.

25. The *Chárvártá*, of the 19th December, takes exception to the

The nomination of Municipal Commissioners by Government.

Government practice of repeatedly nominating the same gentlemen as Municipal Commissioners.

Repeated nominations may turn the heads of the nominated Commissioners, and may thus lead them to neglect their duties.

26. A correspondent of the *Samaya*, of the 23rd December, says that

The roads of Krishnagore.

the roads of Krishnagore are very dusty and out of repair. On the occasion of the

Lieutenant-Governor's last visit some of the roads were overlaid with metal. But the metal was removed after His Honour's departure. The new Commissioners will earn public gratitude if they repair the roads.

27. A correspondent of the *Dainik and Samáchár Chandriká*, of the

The municipal election at Baraset.

26th December, writing about the late municipal elections at Baraset, expresses the hope

that the late Chairman, Baboo Biprodas Banerjee, will be returned as a Government nominee, because he did not, by withdrawing his name from the list of candidates, allow himself to be elected in the ordinary way. Biprodas Baboo is a distinguished pleader of the Alipore Judge's Court and the Editor of the *Sahachar* newspaper. He is the ablest man in Baraset, and during his term of office he did his duty in a thoroughly efficient manner. It is hoped that he will again be Chairman of the municipality. Baboo Harinath Sen, one of the elected Commissioners, is a Sub-Inspector of Schools. He is, as it were, the life and soul of the Municipality, and everyone is glad to see him re-elected. The work of the municipality has been performed very creditably during the last three years except in one locality. The roads to the east of the railway station and the jail have been repaired only with the effect of making them worse than they were before. It is hoped that the new Commissioners will see that these roads are well repaired.

28. The *Dacca Gazette*, of the 26th December, says that the Com-

The Dacca Municipality.

missioners of the Dacca Municipality do not attend to the improvement of the narrow lanes

and bye-lanes in the town. There are also many places within the town of Dacca which are neither watched by policemen nor lighted at night and in which no arrangements exist for the removal of night-soil. The Commissioners are requested to attend to all these points.

29. The *Navavibhákar Sádháraní*, of the 26th December, says that the

The late municipal elections.

municipal elections of this year have not been marked by such enthusiasm as the first

municipal elections were. This is partly due to the fact that municipal elections have now lost the charm of novelty, and partly to the fact that the Government officers and law courts were not closed on the election days. The chief fault of the municipal elective system is that it produces and intensifies party spirit. This evil must of course be tolerated because it is inseparable from self-government. But very bad results will be produced if the natives do not take note of the fact that party spirit thus produced may cause much evil. During the late elections party spirit assumed a very rancorous form in some towns, such as Krishnagore, Utterpara, Howrah, and Baranagore. It is recommended that the example of the Deputy Magistrate of Lalbagh, who read out to the voters, before the commencement of the elections, a report explaining the origin, continuance and working of the municipal system within his jurisdiction during the last three years, should be followed everywhere. The election of a Mussulman butcher at Rampore Beauleah is disapproved. This disapproval proceeds from no race-feeling, and it is certain that sensible Mussulmans will themselves disapprove this election. Hatred for certain occupations exists in every country, and the

CHARU VARTA,
Dec. 19th, 1887.

SAMAYA,
Dec. 23rd, 1887.

DAINK & SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Dec. 26th, 1887.

DACCA GAZETTE,
Dec. 26th, 1887.

NAVAVIBHAKAR
SADHARANI,
Dec. 26th, 1887.

common English saying—" A Jeffreys for a Judge and twelve butchers for a jury " betrays the existence of this feeling even among Englishmen. Able and honest men are unwilling to beg for votes. If Government wishes for success of the self-government system, it should remedy the evil which has been caused by bad elections by making good nominations itself.

NAVAVIBHAKAR
SADHARANI,
Dec. 26th, 1887.

30. According to the same paper everybody must admit that the administration of village affairs by village

Committees is far more desirable than their

administration by Central Boards. It is not therefore easy to see why, in spite of the provision made in the Self-Government Act for the establishment of village unions, no new village unions have been established and the village unions once established have been abolished. Are the people to understand that the officials are still endeavouring to prevent the introduction of real self-government into the villages ? The chief officials of Bengal showed no indifference in the matter of the establishment of village unions even in the time of Sir Rivers Thompson, who was such a staunch supporter of the Civilian bureaucracy. Sir Steuart Bayley is not opposed to the self-government system. And if he is a real disciple of Lord Ripon, he should reconstitute the Union Committees which were established in eight sub-divisions and remove the defects which may have been found in the method of electing members for them.

NAVAVIBHAKAR
SADHARANI.

31. The same paper publishes an election song in which a candidate for municipal election is represented as speaking in the following strain :—

" I want to be a Commissioner this time. Coolies will always be at work in my garden, and thus my garden will be kept trim. When you will all come to my house on invitation, your eyes will be dazzled by the many lights which will be put at my door by cringing candidates for my favour. Mortar, lime and vegetables will come to my house in scavenger carts. I will reduce my own tax and shift the burden on to another. Though I spend no money in religious festivals, I will still buy votes. Look how my election agents are going everywhere, and see how they are flattering people for votes. My sister's son will be tax-gatherer, and my brother's son will be overseer, and my brother-in-law will be contractor. If I become a Commissioner, I will feed fat the grudge I bear against others by giving wrong turns to their water-courses and by ploughing up the very compounds of their houses."

NAVAVIBHAKAR.
SADHARANI.

Nomination of Municipal Commis-
sioners.

32. The same paper says that the Indian Association would have done well if, instead of simply requesting Government to nominate good men as Municipal Commissioners, it had sent in the names of men who deserve to be so nominated. If such names are not sent in, Government will have to nominate those who will be recommended to it by the district officials, be they fit or not.

(f)—*Questions affecting the land.*

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
Dec. 20th, 1887.

Rent collections in Bankura.

33. A correspondent of the *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 20th December, learns from a reliable source that some favourites of the Bankura Collectorate lately exercised great oppression by distraining certain standing crops (ripe paddy) belonging to the *khas* tenant, the sirdar ghatwal, and his dependants, for non-payment of the Paus *kist*. This is an extremely illegal proceeding, and such acts of spoliation have the effect of rendering the tenants miserable, and also expose them to the risk of similar treatment in future. Nor is it profitable for the Government to send its *amlahs* on such errands. The correspondent questions the propriety of keeping two or three paid *amlahs* to collect rents

from a few petty sirdar ghatwals and to destroy the standing crops which are the sole means of subsistence of the poor tenants. These amlah do not trouble themselves as to whether the rents from the *khas* tenants, the sirdar ghatwals, are realized or not. Their only business seems to be to fill their own pockets at the expense of the poor sub-tenants. The writer recommends the kind-hearted Collector to do away with these amlah, and states that the tenants are unable to pay their rents owing to their being overtaxed and consequently impecunious. The work of making collections of rent should be entrusted to competent men.

34. The *Sahachar*, of the 21st December, says that the Editor of an Anglo-Indian newspaper has inferred from the fact that small sums of money are distributed among the cultivators of Bengal in the shape of tuccavi advances, that the ryots of this country are not so poor as they are thought to be. But this does not seem to be a correct inference. There are two reasons why ryots are not very willing to take tuccavi advances. In the first place, they are subjected to great trouble and inconvenience when they take the advances. In the second place, as tuccavi loans are granted only for agricultural purposes, they are compelled to borrow from the money-lender in order to meet their other wants. And as the money-lender would not lend them money unless they borrowed from him for all purposes, they are compelled to borrow from the money-lender even for agricultural purposes. Let the restrictions now placed upon the grant of tuccavi loans be removed, and let the ryots be accommodated with loans for all purposes, and then if it is found that the ryots do not take tuccavi advances, it will be time to say that the Bengal ryot is not so poor as he is generally represented to be.

35. A correspondent of the *Bangabási*, of the 24th December, says that Government collects the road cess on lands held as lakehraj under Regulation II of 1819 in a most perfunctory manner. The man who pays Rs. 2 as road cess is required to pay ten times that amount as *talabana*; and co-sharers who have paid their share of the road cess often find their lands sold by auction for the default of other co-sharers. At these road cess sales a bigah of land worth Rs. 100 is often sold for Rs. 2 to Rs. 3. The mismanagement in the Midnapore road cess establishment is so great that one man is recorded as the proprietor of another man's land, and certificates are made against persons who have never been co-sharers of lands held under one *sanad*.

The road cess in Midnapore.

SAHACHAR.
Dec. 21st, 1887.

BANGABÁSI.
Dec. 24th, 1887.

(g)—*Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.*

36. A correspondent of the *Cháruvártá*, of the 19th December, The station-master of Mymen-singh. complains that the station-master of Mymen-singh shows undue partiality to some persons by admitting them to the railway platform, while he refuses to admit others.

37. The *Samaya*, of the 23rd December, has no faith in Commissions, but it expects some good from the Irrigation Commission simply because the generous Mr. Cotton is its President. It is said that crowds of people are coming and prostrating themselves before the President, which means that their distress is very real and severe. It is hoped that the Commission will do something for the good of the people of Behar, and that those officials who may be found to have oppressed the people will be severely punished.

38. A correspondent of the same paper complains that the roads of the village Rifayitpore in Nuddea are in a wretched condition. It is said that money is granted from time to time for their repair, but it is impossible for one who sees the roads to believe such a statement.

CHARU VARTA.
Dec. 19th, 1887.

SAMAYA.
Dec. 23rd 1887.

SAMAYA.

SULABH SAMACHAR &
KUSHDAHA,
Dec 23rd, 1887.

SULABH SAMACHAR &
KUSHDAHA.

PRAJA BANDHU,
Dec. 23rd, 1887.

BANGABASI,
Dec. 24th, 1887.

BANGABASI.

BANGABASI.

39. The *Sulabh Samachar and Kushdaha*, of the 23rd December, says that other railways in the country should follow the example of the East Indian Railway in the matter of the reduction of third class fares, and increased attention to the comforts of third class passengers.

40. The same paper complains that the intermediate class and third class passengers are very often insulted by the Coolies in railway stations. The railway coolies. They do not allow these passengers to take rest at night on the benches provided for them at the stations. No waiting-room is provided for these passengers, and they are therefore put to great trouble and inconvenience at night during the cold season. All station-masters should see that the coolies do not ill-treat passengers in this way.

41. The *Praja Bandhu*, of the 23rd December, says that since the Eastern Bengal Railway came into the hands of Government collisions between trains have become far more frequent, and the whole railway management has also become more unsatisfactory than before. Native gentlemen are now often insulted by the Eurasian officers of the railway. No attention is now paid to the convenience of the fourth class passengers. Lights are not generally given in the fourth class carriages, and this absence of light was recently the cause of a serious danger to a train, and even led to the loss of one or two lives. But those lives were native lives, and no notice was therefore taken of the matter. The expenses of the railway have increased in consequence of the maintenance of unnecessary English and Eurasian officers on large salaries, while its expenditure has been reduced only by the dismissal of some native clerks and peons.

42. Referring to the fearful disclosures made before the Behar Irrigation Commission, the *Bangabasi*, of the 24th December, remarks that it is difficult to imagine that such things are possible under the British rule.

43. A correspondent of the same paper complains of the want of a road from Dashghara, an important village in the Hooghly district, to Calcutta. The inhabitants of the village go to Calcutta by way of Tarakeswar, and there is also no good road from their village to Tarakeswar. People have therefore to pass through paddy-fields, and the meadowy track is sometimes covered with mud and at other times is submerged in water from the Tarakeswar *beel*. The zemindar of Dashghara intends to spend Rs. 20,000 on the occasion of his father's *sradh*. He would do well to immortalise his father's name by constructing a road from Dashghara to Tarakeswar.

44. Jotindra Mohan Buxi and Ram Nath Ghose, on behalf of the inhabitants of Ichapore, and Bunwari Lal Gossain, on behalf of those of Gourbazar, write in the same paper that the District

Board proposes to construct a road from Ichapore to Ranigunge. Some difference has arisen between Baboo Bunwari Lal Chatterjee, a member of the Local Board, and the inhabitants of the locality regarding the direction which this road is to take. Bunwari Baboo is for carrying the road from Ichapore through his own village of Amrai to the Mohanpore dâk bungalow on the Grand Trunk Road. If this proposal is carried out, the inhabitants of Gourbazar, Ichapore and 200 or 300 other villages will be put to considerable inconvenience; for they will have to travel a long distance in order to come to the Ranigunge bazar or the Undul station, and the District Board will accordingly have to spend a large sum of money.

Tamla is three miles from Ichapore, and there is a pucca road from Tamla to the Undul station and the Ranigunge bazar. So if a road is constructed from Ichapore to Tamla, the inhabitants of about 150 villages will derive great benefit. If the Board acts according to the advice of Bunwari Baboo, it will be obliged to spend more money than is necessary. The Chairman of the District Board is out on his winter tour, and he is requested to examine the merits of the two proposals with a view of deciding satisfactorily between them. No waste of road cess money is desirable, and people therefore fear lest the Board be guided by the one-sided view of Bunwari Baboo.

(h)—General.

45. Referring to the many official scandals in the district of Mymensingh, the *Chárvártá*, of the 19th

The administration of the district December, says, the reason why official vagaries are so frequent in that district is that of Mymensingh.

Government sends only bad officers to that district, and that the officers who are generally selected for it are officers wholly unacquainted with the men and manners of Mymensingh. Mymensingh is a very large district. The relations existing between the ryots and the landlords in that district are of a peculiar nature. The education and tastes of its inhabitants are also of a kind peculiar to themselves. If able and experienced Magistrates are placed in charge of such a district, such an unsatisfactory state of affairs as now exists in Mymensingh cannot continue. Mr. Reynolds, the late Magistrate of Mymensingh, Mr. Charles, the late Superintendent of Police, and Baboos Ramsanker Sen and Bramhanath Sen, the late Sub-divisional Officers, found no difficulty in administering the district well and properly. The present difficulties are mainly due to the inexperience, the rashness and the highhandedness of the Executive officers who were recently in charge of the administration of the district. The very atmosphere of Mymensingh is, as it were, vitiated by repeated cases of magisterial vagaries. Government should therefore be particularly careful in selecting good Executive officers for this district. The appointment of Mr. Dutt in succession to the notorious Mr. Glazier has been very satisfactory.

46. The same paper requests the authorities to enquire into the

The cattle-pound at Mymensingh. following points relating to the cattle-pound at Mymensingh:—

(1).—Whether the admission of the cows of some particular persons is not refused by the pound-keeper.

(2).—Whether cows are not driven from people's houses on to the main road for the purpose of being impounded, and whether some cows are not decoyed into the pound.

(3).—It is reported that some dealers in cattle were driving a large number of cows through the town of Mymensingh. They met a policeman who threatened to take the whole herd to the cattle-pound. A gentleman who was passing by interposed, and the cattle-dealers were allowed to go away without further molestation.

47. The *Argávarta*, of the 20th December, referring to the recent rule that letters posted after 6 P.M. will not

A postal matter. be despatched that day if an additional postage of two pice is not given, says that Government should not put the people to inconvenience for the sake of such paltry gain.

48. The *Gauhar*, of the 20th December, recommends that the Contagious Diseases Act should be revived as

The Contagious Diseases Act. people are suffering from its abolition. If

CHARU VARTA,
Dec. 19th, 1887.

CHARU VARTA.

ARYAVARTA,
Dec. 20th, 1887.

GAUHAR,
Dec. 20th, 1887.

the Calcutta Municipality is unable to provide expenses for working the Act, a tax varying from Re. 1 to Rs. 25 according to income should be levied upon the prostitutes of Calcutta for the purpose.

GAUHAR.
Dec. 20th, 1887.

BHARAT MITRA,
Dec. 23rd, 1887.

BHARAT MITRA.

SAMAYA,
Dec. 23rd, 1887.

SAMAYA.

PRAJA BANDHU,
Dec. 23rd, 1887.

49. The same paper, of the 20th December, says that letters containing addresses written in the Nagri and Persian characters are often misdelivered in consequence of the postal peon's ignorance of those languages. It is recommended that those alone who can read Nagri and Persian, as well as English and Bengali, should be appointed as postal peons.

50. The *Bhárat Mitra*, of the 22nd December, says that it is unjust to maintain Christian clergymen with money paid by Hindus and Mussulmans. The writer is therefore glad that Sir Steuart Bayley proposes reducing the monthly grant for St. Paul's Cathedral to Rs. 200, and waits to see what order the Government of India passes upon this.

51. The same paper says that under the Mussulman rule the wealth of the country did not go out of it, and natives were appointed to high posts without distinction of race. But under the English rule English and Mussulman rule in India.

the wealth of the country is being drained away and natives are not appointed to high posts. Government should ascertain the real condition of the country from the delegates to the National Congress, because the reports which are made to it by Magistrates on this subject after touring in the mofussil are considered by the people to be utterly worthless.

52. The *Samaya*, of the 23rd December, says that the oppression of clerks by heads of offices has become epidemic in character. Recently a Mussulman

clerk of the Foreign Department drawing a salary of Rs. 35 has been fined Rs. 15 by the Under-Secretary, Mr. Crawford, for committing one error in a Persian translation. The attention of the Viceroy is drawn to this unjust punishment.

53. The same paper draws Lord Dufferin's attention to the well-reasoned petition of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, praying for the discussion of the

The budget.
budget every year in the Legislative Council, and says that the present practice of laying the budget before the Council only in years in which new taxes are imposed does not enable the members of the Council to prevent such waste of money by Government as renders the imposition of new taxes absolutely necessary. Under the present system the members have no control over expenditure.

54. The *Praja Bandhu*, of the 23rd December, says the Indians have no control over the finances of the country.

Reduction of expenditure.
But how long can such a state of things last? Even the gentle frog, when tormented, turns upon its tormentors. It is simply strange that the English Government is able to safely administer the country while it is tormenting the Indians in this manner. But such a state of things cannot last for ever. Even though the Indians may tolerate it, God will not. In no other country in the world do officials receive such large salaries as in India. It is the intention of Government to drain away all the wealth of the Indians, and to give them only so much money as will enable them to barely maintain themselves. It is true that some Indians are now holding high posts, but that is because the English Government had in a careless moment promised to make appointments without distinction of race, colour and creed, without dreaming that natives would ever be able to compete with Englishmen. Government now tries to reduce expenditure by dismissing a few clerks and peons. But it does not venture to curtail those expenses by whose reduction alone any effectual retrenchment

can be effected. The English Government is thus ruining the Indians for the sake of enriching Englishmen. Though the Indians are pinched even for food, the English Government is continually increasing the burden of their taxation. If India is to be saved from ruin, the expenditure of Government must be reduced. All India should now jointly protest against the payment of high salaries to the civilians and against the large expenditure of the Military Department.

55. The *Pratikár*, of the 23rd December, praises the appointment of Dr. Mahendra Lal Sircar as Sheriff of Calcutta, of Baboo Gonesh Chandra Chandra

as Deputy Sheriff, and of Dr. Guru Das Banerjee as a Member of the Bengal Council. Impartiality on the part of Government in appointing meritorious natives will increase the loyalty and contentment of the people. The appointment of natives to posts which are generally given to Europeans has given great delight to the people.

56. The same paper says that wasteful expenditure reaches its climax in the Military Department of the Government of India. India is a milch cow reduced to a skeleton by merciless milking. India has

The military expenditure of Government. been impoverished in order to secure the best interests of England. Many unworthy Englishmen have been entertained in the public service. Government looks only to the interests of Englishmen, and turns a deaf ear to the cries of the people of India. The only policy which Government understands and systematically carries out is to saddle India with the expenses of wars and to impose heavy taxes. The people of India may groan or may even die under the heavy burden of taxation, but England will not cease to boast that she pursues a sound administrative policy in India.

57. The *Bangabásí*, of the 24th December, does not attach much importance to the rumour published by the

The native press. *Indian Daily News* newspaper that the Government will revive the Press Act. If an attempt is again made to gag the native press alone, the highest interests of the British Government in India will suffer. All farsighted statesmen like Lord Dufferin know that the gagging of the native press will deprive Government of the only means in its possession for ascertaining genuine native opinion and the real wants and grievances of the people. The statesmen who made the native press free did not do so out of mere philanthropic motives, but from motives of self-interest and patriotism. They did not do so without carefully considering the interests of both England and India. A wise and enlightened statesman like Lord Dufferin will not, it is certain, countenance such an iniquitous and unstatesmanlike measure as the gagging of the native press, and the clamours of a few Anglo-Indians and members of the Civil Service will not certainly induce him to commit so sad a mistake. It is re-assuring to hear the *Englishman* newspaper speak with a knowing air that the rumour has no foundation.

58. A correspondent of the same paper says that the establishment of an

Increase of drunkenness at Sandhipore. outstill at Sandhipore, a village in the Howrah district, has increased drunkenness in that

and the neighbouring villages. Even the cultivators have taken to drinking. By establishing these outstills, Government is turning the whole country into a desert.

59. The same paper says that the Lieutenant-Governor has, in reply

The outstill system. to the memorial submitted to him by the Indian Association for the abolition of the outstill system in the Hooghly and Howrah districts, informed the Secretary to the Association that Mr. Westmacott, the Magistrate of Howrah,

PRATIKAR,
Dec. 23rd, 1887.

PRATIKAR.

BANGABASÍ,
Dec. 24th, 1887.

BANGABASÍ.

BANGABASÍ.

has been deputed to make local enquiries into the statements made in the memorial. But will a Government officer, especially in this state of financial difficulty, succeed in doing what the Excise Commission itself failed to do?

BANGARASL.
Dec. 24th, 1887.

60. A correspondent of the same paper says that in many places in Assam the paddy crops have not thrived on account of drought. The people there are in

great distress, and rents are being collected with unusual vigour under the moujadari system. It is true that the Government officers make winter tours in the mofussil, but they do not consider it worth their while to enquire into the condition of the ryots or their cattle or into their wants and grievances. Questions relating to the supply of good drinking water or the construction of roads are wholly overlooked by them. All that these officers on tour care for is that they remain in the mofussil for the prescribed number of days. And they return to their head-quarters perfectly satisfied if they only find the opium registers well kept. The "local rate" has been imposed for the purpose of constructing new roads and excavating tanks. But nothing has been done in this direction. The newly-appointed Chief Commissioner of Assam is requested to attend to all these points.

SANJIVANI,
Dec. 24th, 1887.

61. The *Sanjivani*, of the 24th December, says that Government has not done wrong in reducing the salary of the

Reduction of the salaries of Govern-
ment officers.

Bengali Translator to Government from Rs. 700 to Rs. 500. But along with the salary

of the Bengali Translator, the salaries of all English and native officers from the Viceroy downwards, drawing salaries of above Rs. 500, should be reduced if the financial position of Government is to be materially improved. But if Government does not do so, people will say that the salary of the Bengali Translator has been reduced simply because the Bengali Translator is a native.

SANJIVANI.

62. The same paper cannot help praising the Lieutenant-Governor for the interest he has evinced in the welfare of the people by ordering an inquiry to be instituted into the evils produced by the outstall system.

SANJIVANI.

63. The same paper, referring to the statement of the *Indian Daily*

The native press.

News that certain proposals of the Govern-

ment of India for curtailing the freedom of the native press are under the consideration of the India Council, says that if Lord Dufferin does not contradict this statement through the Press Commissioner, the people will take it to be true. There is also nothing improbable in the rumour considering that it is a disciple of Lord Beaconsfield who gagged the native press on the last occasion that is now at the head of affairs, and that it is he who is now engaged in suppressing the free expression of public opinion in Ireland. The Government which is capable of depriving such a brave people as the Irish of their liberties is well able to treat as it pleases a weak people like the Indians.

DACCA PRAKASH,
Dec. 25th, 1887.

64. The *Dacca Prakash*, of the 25th December, refers to the mischief which the British Government has done by

The punchayet as a part of the administrative machinery.

depriving the old punchayets of all power. A Judge in an ordinary court of law has to pass decisions in matters which affect a large extent of country of which he has no personal knowledge, and he is therefore mainly guided by the evidence of one or more witnesses in each case. The man, therefore, who can prove himself strong in the matter of getting together witnesses is generally declared to be the right party, although the truth may be, and often is, on the side opposite to him.

Everyone knows how troublesome it is to have to go frequently to courts of law, sometimes far from home and sacrificing other business. Few people are willing to come forward as witnesses in the face of such inconveniences. The power possessed by courts of law to compel witnesses to appear is seldom exercised, and even if it were exercised in all cases, it would be felt as a great *zoolum*. Such being the case, it would not be unreasonable to suppose that those who do come forward as witnesses are generally men who are completely under the influence of one or other of the parties to a suit. And the evidence of such witnesses must be very unreliable. If the *punchayets* are invested with the power of examining witnesses, and if a good set of rules is drawn up with this object, it will be possible for Judges to obtain reliable evidence without subjecting people to unnecessary trouble and expense.

Notices, summonses or proclamations, whether issued by the Government or by the criminal courts, are not, as a rule, properly served. Neither the Government nor the peons of a court can be supposed to be so omniscient as to know each and every man against whom a summons is issued. It thus happens that a wrong person is often pounced upon and the guilty party is suffered to escape. To this cause is to be traced chiefly the miseries which many people suffer in connection with the realization of the land revenue and the road cess. In those cases in which lands require to be pointed out to serving peons, the power of the court peons becomes simply absolute. It is practically impossible in such cases to get one's work done without buying the peon over with bribes. If the *punchayets* are empowered to serve summonses, no peons will be required to serve them, and summonses will be served without involving anybody in trouble or expense. The adoption of this course will require a material change in the present judicial machinery. But considering the good that its adoption will do, it is hoped that no time will be lost in effecting the necessary change.

The powers in question may also be conferred upon Union Committees established under the Local Self-Government Act. Let such Union Committees be therefore established everywhere, or let the *punchayets* under the Chowkidari Act be invested with these functions. It will of course be necessary to give a small fee to the members of a *punchayet* for doing all this work.

65. The same paper is glad to find that the Zemindars' Association of Dacca have memorialized Government to exempt their tenants from the operation of the income-tax in regard to bastu land, jalkar, &c., and hope that the Government will promptly attend to their prayer.

66. The *Navavibhákar Sádháraní*, of the 26th December, says that Lord Dufferin's administration of India.

Lord Dufferin has now gratified Englishmen's desire for war. Let him now try to satisfy the Indians. The three years of his administration, which have already passed away, have been marked by little else but fireworks. He has held out to the natives the hope that they will be enrolled as volunteers, and that the Legislative Councils will be reconstituted on a representative basis. And he will incur grave obloquy if the hopes thus held out by him are not fulfilled. The state of the finances is very bad, and Lord Dufferin's stay in India will have been of little use if, before going away, he cannot remove this financial difficulty of Government. His Lordship has given some attention to only one question of internal administration, namely, the question of appointments to the Civil Service. But it does not appear that any good will come of the Civil Service Commission which he has appointed. No Commission, with the single exception of the Indigo Commission, has been of any use whatever. Again, His

DACCA PRESSAGE
Dec. 25th, 1887.

NAVAVIBHAKAR
SADHARANI
Dec. 26th, 1887.

Excellency's term of office will nearly expire before the Commission's report is prepared. But he does not, in truth, want such a report for his enlightenment. He certainly knows what ought to be done in the matter of making appointments to the Public Service. Will he do what he knows will be right and proper?

NAVABHAKAR
SADHARANI.
Dec. 26th, 1887.

The budget in the Legislative Council.

67. The same paper says that there can be no discussion of the budget every year in the Legislative Council until the Parliamentary Statute regulating the procedure of the Indian Legislative Councils is amended.

But Parliament is now too much occupied with Irish affairs to be able to attend to any Indian question. But this difficulty may be evaded by adopting the *Reis and Rayyet* newspaper's ingenious suggestion that Acts relating to taxes should be passed for one year only.

NAVABHAKAR
SADHARANI.

68. The same paper approves of the appointment of Sir Charles Elliot as Public Works Minister on the ground that Sir Charles is not so antinative as the generality of Anglo-Indians.

NAVABHAKAR
SADHARANI.

69. The same paper says that everybody is satisfied with Sir Steuart Bayley for the intention he has expressed of enquiring into the evils produced by the out-

stills. Mr. Westmacott, whom he has appointed to conduct the enquiry, is a very clever and experienced man, and no better selection could have been made for this purpose from among Englishmen. But considering that the enquiry will have for the most part to be made among low class natives who may not dare to freely state everything before an Englishman, and that an Englishman can never have such a knowledge of the native character as a native is expected to possess, it would have been better if a native had been appointed to make the enquiry.

DAINIK & SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Dec. 26th, 1887.

The report of the Public Service Commission.

70. The *Dainik and Samachár Chandriká*, of the 26th December, fails to understand why the report of the Public Service Commission should be withheld from the public pending the sanction of the Secretary of State for India. Seeing that the Commission conducted its operations openly throughout, the writer suspects that there must be some sinister motive for such a strange course.

DACCA GAZETTE,
Dec. 26th, 1887.

The frontier Chief Commissionership.

71. The *Dacca Gazette*, of the 26th December, disapproves of the appointment of a frontier Chief Commissioner. The extension of the Empire further westward will only lead to a waste of Indian money, which means sucking dry the life-blood of the Indians. A Chief Commissionership beyond the frontier will help Government very little in avoiding complications in future or in keeping off enemies.

DACCA GAZETTE.

The pay of the Bengali Translator to Government.

72. The same paper takes exception to the action of the Finance Committee in reducing the pay of the Bengali Translator to Government from Rs. 700 to Rs. 500. The responsibility attached to the post is very heavy, and considerable ability and attainments are required in the performance of its duties. The Finance Committee's proposals for expenditure have been of the most objectionable kind. It has proposed the reduction of many small salaries, leaving all large salaries untouched. It has also proposed the reduction of the salaries of the very few high posts which are held by natives. Retrenchment of expenditure is certainly good. But there are some posts under the Government of India carrying very high salaries. The salaries of these posts should also be reduced. Government should in fact reduce the salaries of officers serving in all its departments in a spirit of impartiality.

73. The *Som Prakash*, of the 26th December, agrees with the *Indian Mirror* in thinking that the confidential report on native papers should be furnished to native editors. It is very necessary for them to know whether or not their writings are correctly reported.

SOM PRakash,
Dec. 29th, 1857.

74. The same paper cannot see what effect besides waste of public money will be gained by the establishment of a Chief Commissionership beyond the North-Western frontier.

SOM PRakash.

75. The same paper, referring to the reduction of salary of the Bengali Translator to Government from Rs. 700 to Rs. 500, asks that if the services of an M. A. and B. L. of the Calcutta University can be obtained for the Bengali Translatorship on a salary of Rs. 500, why should those who have little education and are yet drawing salaries above Rs. 600 not have their salaries similarly reduced?

SOM PRakash.

76. The same paper hopes that the Lieutenant-Governor will attend to the prayer of the zemindars of East Bengal that bastu lands, jalkars, bankars, hats, and bazars should be exempted from the operation of the income-tax in consideration of the fact that local cesses are already paid for them.

SOM PRakash.

77. The same paper says that whatever merits the English Government may have, there can be no doubt that it feels no shame in wringing money from its poor subjects. No generous Government is capable of wasting money upon its own amusements and then grinding down its poor subjects in order to make good the deficit caused in the State exchequer. It is impossible to give the British Government in India credit for the generosity and knowledge of finance upon which it piques itself so much. It is true that the English Government has conferred some benefits upon the natives; but it cannot be denied that it is draining away all the wealth of the country in exchange for those benefits. Government is not in the least uneasy on account of the debts it rashly incurs. Its occasional schemes of retrenchment only result in the dismissal of few clerks and peons. The whole world sees that the English Government, upon which the Indians so implicitly rely, is deaf to their cries of distress. The more the Indians are showing their love to the Government, the more suspicious the Government is becoming in regard to them. And that is perhaps the reason why Government seems bent upon plunging India over head and ears in debt. The ruler who does not look to the welfare of the people is, according to learned men, a traitor and undeserving of the name of a ruler.

SOM PRakash.

78. The same paper is sorry that Government has taken no notice of the account published two years ago of the oppressions practised by the Personal Assistant to the Commissioner of Orissa. The Personal Assistant has it all his own way in the Gurjat mehals. It is owing to his maladministration that no real improvement has been seen in any of those mehals.

SOM PRakash.

79. A correspondent of the same paper says that it is very inconvenient for the people of Budge-Budge to go to Bishunpore to have their deeds registered, because the roads leading to that place are in a miserable condition. It will be more convenient for them if they have to go instead to Alipore for that purpose. But why should not a rural registry office be established at Budge-Budge itself which is becoming an important place

SOM PRakash.

III.—LEGISLATIVE.

BANGABASI,
Dec. 24th, 1887.

80. The *Bangabasi*, of the 24th December, does not believe the statement made by the *Pioneer* newspaper that the Government is about to amend the

Criminal Procedure Code, the Widow Marriage Act, and the Hindu law relating to marriage. No member of the Viceregal Council is well versed in Hindu law. The nomination of Dewan Raghu Nath Rao of Indore has for its object the removal of this want; but Raghu Nath Rao is neither a leader of Hindu society, nor an orthodox Hindu. He belongs to the band of reformers, who find fault with existing Hindu manners and customs. Government should not create dissatisfaction among the millions of its Hindu subjects by interfering in matters affecting their religious beliefs. Government will gain nothing by so doing. It is hoped that a farsighted statesman like Lord Dufferin will not countenance such legislation.

BANGABASI.

81. The same paper makes the following remarks on Dr. Birch's proposal regarding the registration of medical practitioners:—As homœopaths have been known to cure cases pronounced incurable

The proposed Medical Registration Law.

by allopaths, their exclusion from medical practice will be detrimental to the country. It must be carefully borne in mind that all are not quacks who fail to obtain a medical degree. Poor people cannot afford to be treated by the licentiates of medical schools and colleges, and it will be neither practicable nor convenient to exclude quacks from practice. Dr. Birch says that there are about 5,000 quacks in the town of Calcutta. He ought, however, to bear in mind that out of the five lakhs of people inhabiting Calcutta, only one lakh can afford to be treated by passed doctors. Besides, there are many among the so-called quacks who may not have passed any medical examinations, but who have acquired a competent knowledge of medicine by experience and practice, and who are sometimes able to treat very successfully cases which are given up as hopeless by medical men holding diplomas. The Medical Society certainly wants to make the practice of medicine a monopoly of the allopaths, and it is clear that if this proposal is carried into effect medical aid will be placed beyond the reach of the poor. Hindus, Mahomedans, and especially zenana ladies, are always reluctant to go to hospitals. So, considering how things now stand, it is desirable that all the different systems of medicine now obtaining in this country should enjoy perfect freedom, as it is impossible that the whole country can be in a position to avail itself of the services of doctors turned out by the Medical Schools and Colleges.

The majority of the homœopathic practitioners in the town have studied the healing art in the Medical College, and on failing to obtain the final diploma have taken to the practice of homœopathy. The fact is that the practice of passed allopathic doctors has suffered a good deal on account of the success which has attended the practice of these homœopaths. And therefore this attempt to suppress the homœopaths altogether. If the recommendations of the Medical Society are passed into law, the consequences will be simply fearful—a view which is shared by some of the leading allopathic practitioners of the town.

Dr. Sircar can testify to the great tact and ability displayed by the late Dr. Doorga Charan Banerjee in treating difficult diseases. But Dr. Doorga Charan was not a passed doctor. Again the reputation of Baboo Rajendra Dutt as a medical man is very high, but he does not hold any certificate from any medical institution. What will become of such distinguished physicians if the proposed law is passed? Dr. Sircar, Dr. Guru Das

Banerjee, and Baboo Kali Nath Mittra are now members of the Bengal Council which is presided over by Sir Steuart Bayley. It is earnestly hoped that they will not allow the medical profession to become the monopoly of the allopaths.

82. The *Sanjivani*, of the 24th December, referring to a recent case

The Calcutta Municipal Bill and in which the License Inspector of Carriages, License Inspectors.

Calcutta, prosecuted a native Barrister for failure to take out a license for his carriage, although the latter had, as a matter of fact, taken out a license, says that in the face of facts like these it would be most unwise to empower License Inspectors to distrain carriages and horses without the order of law courts, as is contemplated to be done in the Calcutta Municipal Bill.

83. The same paper does not agree with those who object to graduates

Graduates as municipal voters. having the power of voting in Calcutta and

the Suburbs on the ground that those alone who pay municipal taxes should have control over municipal expenses, and that the appointment of graduates to assist rate-payers in making a good selection of Commissioners is repugnant to the principle of self-government. It should be remembered that the rate-payers will not be supplanted by graduates, and that graduates will be allowed to vote simply with a view of assisting the rate-payers in choosing good representatives. No apprehension need be entertained that if graduates get the power of voting, they may at least in some wards return their own men and thus defeat the rate-payers' men. For graduates are not numerous enough in any ward to be able to swamp the rate-payers, and it is not also probable that they will oppose the wishes of the rate-payers. It should also be borne in mind that, though extraneous help in the management of municipal affairs may be anomalous in a system of self-government which has undergone considerable development, it must be in the highest degree necessary and useful to let the people have such help among whom self-government is, as it undoubtedly is in this country, in a state of infancy.

84. The *Som Prakash*, of the 26th December, says that the Calcutta

Graduates as voters, and municipal Trades' Association must be inimically disposed towards educated natives and opposed

to the spread of education in this country, or it would not object to the provision made in the new Municipal Bill allowing Fellows and graduates of the University to vote, and municipalities to make pecuniary grants to schools and patshalas.

85. The same paper refers to the rumour that Government intends

The marriage question. to amend the Widow Marriage Act in a way

which will introduce revolutionary changes in the law about Hindu marriage, and points out that Lord Reay's proposals on the subject have been disapproved by all other Local Governments and also by every educated and intelligent man whose opinion has been taken on it. Sir William Hunter has proposed that, in order to make widow marriage more prevalent in the country, the provisions of the Widow Marriage Act which disentitles widows who have remarried to inherit the properties of their former husbands should be repealed. But it is not at all likely that this will have the desired effect, seeing that the *Lex Loci Act* has not increased the number of native converts to Christianity, and that widow marriage prevails largely among the lower Hindu castes in spite of the disinheriting effects of such marriage. Again, if Government declares widows who have remarried to be entitled to the properties of their former husbands, Hindu families will be placed in a position of difficulty of which Europeans can hardly form an adequate conception. Hindus are for the most part poor, and live in small houses. If a widow who has remarried is allowed to live with her new

SANJIVANI,
Dec. 24th, 1887.

SANJIVANI.

SOM PRAKASH,
Dec 26th, 1887.

SOM PRAKASH.

husband in the house of which her former husband was one of the members, great inconvenience will be caused to the other members of the house. It is also very painful for a Hindu to live in the same house with one who has married a widow, and who is therefore regarded by him as a heretic. It is requested that the Viceroy will not suddenly take any steps in this very momentous matter.

SAR SUDHANIDHI,
Dec. 26th, 1887

86. The *Sár Sudhánidhi*, of the 26th December, says that the country will be injured by the passing of the Calcutta Municipal Bill. The three chief objects of

The Calcutta Municipal Bill. the Bill are (1) to increase the number of Anglo-Indian merchants in the body of Commissioners, (2) to increase the income of the municipality, and (3) to amalgamate the Suburbs with Calcutta. Each of these contemplated arrangements will injure the people of Calcutta. If the first object is carried out, the number of native Commissioners will be reduced, and thus their influence will diminish. If the second object is attained, the rate-payers' burden of taxation will increase. If the third arrangement is effected, the rate-payers of Calcutta will be injured, because the rate-payers of the Suburbs will not be able to pay their own expenses, and thus their expenses will have to be borne by the Calcutta rate-payers. The proposal to grant allowances to Anglo-Indian merchants for attending to the municipal work is also disapproved. It is hoped that Sir Steuart Bayley will not pass the Bill under these circumstances.

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

PRATIKÁR,
Dec. 23rd, 1887.

87. The *Pratikár*, of the 23rd December, takes exception to Colonel Ward's treatment of Dr. Currie. The

Dr. Currie of Bhopal. spectacle of an European gentleman of Dr. Currie's age and experience complaining of the highhandedness of a fellow European who is an officer in Colonel Ward's position is indeed most unseemly. Dr. Currie has been expelled from Bhopal, because he has incurred the displeasure of Colonel Ward. He was popular with the natives of Bhopal and was a hater of highhandedness. It is not therefore surprising that the natives, who bring to the notice of the public, cases of oppression and highhandedness on the part of European officers are ill-treated and put to trouble.

SOM PRAKASH,
Dec. 26th, 1887.

88. The *Som Prakásh*, of the 26th December, says that, in spite of the formal abolition of slavery in the Travancore State 25 years ago, slavery practically exists there up to this day. The ryots there have to supply the State and its officers with provisions, and to do menial acts for them. It is hoped that the enlightened Maharajah of Travancore will soon abolish this system.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

HINDU RANJIKÁ,
Dec. 21st, 1887.

89. The *Hindu Ranjiká*, of the 21st December, says that the prospects of the *amun* paddy are not satisfactory. Prospects of the crops in Raj-shahye. *Amun* paddy is selling at 8 cottahs a rupee, a cottah being 10 seers.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

CHARU VÁRTÁ,
Dec. 19th, 1887.

90. The *Charu Vártá*, of the 19th December, approves of the action of the Principal of the Dacca College in not allowing a student of the college, who was found guilty of creating a disturbance in the District Judge's Court, to be criminally prosecuted and in punishing him himself with a fine of Rs. 15. A Dacca College boy.

91. The *Gauhar*, of the 20th December, says that a prompt search should be made in the house of the Nawab's Wazir, and also in the houses of Muhammad Ali and Bhikan Daroga for the articles lost from the palace of the late Nawab Wajid Ali Shah.

GAUHAR,
Dec. 20th, 1887.

Lost goods of the late Nawab Wajid Ali Shah.

92. The *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 20th December, states that Pundit

BURDWAN SANJIVANI
Dec. 20th, 1887.

The marriage question.

Sailajananda Ojha, the Chief Priest of the Temple of Baidyanath, has written to the

Government protesting against the attempt that is being made to invite legislative interference in Hindu matrimonial matters. The Ojha has done a commendable act by letting the Government know the opinion of Hindu Society in this matter, and it is the duty of the Government to consult men, like the Ojha, before introducing any social innovation.

93. The *Sahachar*, of the 21st December, thinks that the book called "The Social Evil in Calcutta" is an obscene publication, and ought to be suppressed.

SAHACHAR,
Dec. 21st, 1887.

An obscene publication.

94. The same paper says that under British rule India has become poorer than it was during the days of Mussulman supremacy. Taxation is now heavier than what even Aurangzeb, whose exactions were greater than those of any other Muhammadan Emperor, thought of levying. In the days of the Muhammadans, taxation did not also reach all classes of people as it now does.

SAHACHAR.

Under Muhammadan rule the people of the country were poor, but the country was rich. For then, money passed from the pockets of the people to the coffers of Government or to those of its officers, and did not go out of the country as at present. The revenue of the Empire is now 80 crores, out of which 40 crores is annually sent to England to meet the demand of British merchants and pensioned British officers.

It is true that under British rule the trade of India has greatly increased, having, in fact, risen from 15 to 150 crores of rupees. But as this trade is in the hands of the British merchants, the country has derived no benefit from it. The country has rather been injured by this expansion of trade. The increased exportation of wheat, for instance, by making that article dearer in the country, has compelled the ryots of the Punjab and the North-Western Provinces to live on inferior grains. With the increased cultivation of jute and cotton, the cultivation of rice and other food-grains has decreased, and famines have consequently become frequent. It is true that within the last 25 years prices have increased 60 per cent. But this rise in the prices of goods does not mean increased prosperity of the country. If the produce of the country had all been sold in the country itself at the present increased prices, it would have proved that the country was growing rich. But as the rise in prices is due to increased exportation, the country is always insufficiently supplied even with the necessities of life, and so famine appears if the food-crops fail only for a year or two. Famine was not so common under Mussulman rule as it is now.

Whenever the subject of India's poverty under British rule is discussed or mentioned, the Anglo-Indians try to minimise its importance by dwelling on the benefits which English rule has conferred on the country, and accuse natives of disloyalty for saying that India is now poorer than it was under any former rule. These men, whose number is very large among Anglo-Indian writers and editors, are the real enemies of the British power in India. For it is neither sound policy nor genuine loyalty to ignore the fact that India is becoming poorer and poorer under British rule.

SAHACHAR.
Dec. 21st, 1887.

95. The same paper says that there can be no harm in making the admission that the Congress movement is a selfish one, and that considerations of self-interest alone have led the different nationalities of India to join it. They are surely short-sighted who say that the Bengalis should think for themselves alone. It is necessary for those who are weak to unite with others at least in self-defence. The Bengalis are weak, and they must therefore join others in defending or promoting their own interests. They know that they will not be able to improve their own political status without the assistance of other Indian people, and that is why they are anxious to join the Congress. And similar considerations of self-interest have led other Indian people to join the Congress movement. That movement is a patriotic movement, and not a philanthropic movement.

The Congress has outlived the strong opposition which was presented to it. Amongst the Anglo-Indians, the Governor-General himself is in its favour. Amongst the natives it has only one or two sorry and solitary opponents. Their opposition will cause more sorrow than alarm. The Mussulman opposition has spent its force, and the head of the Muhammadan community in Bombay will be the President of the coming Congress at Madras. The Muhammadans of Bengal will certainly take a lesson from this, if they have not done so already. The Eurasians of Madras have joined the movement, and it is hoped that the Eurasians of Bengal will follow their example. The Congress has so far met with great good fortune. Heaven helps those that help themselves.

SAHACHAR.

96. The same paper says that in proposing to exclude from the practice of medicine all who have not obtained any medical degree, Dr. Birch has fallen into something like the error of supposing that it is medical degrees alone that confer fitness on medical practitioners, and that a passed student of the Campbell Medical School should be preferred to a student who, though he has read up to the fifth year class of the Calcutta Medical College, has, for some reason or other, failed to pass the final examination of that College. As the number of persons practising medicine in Calcutta without holding any degree is about 5,000, Dr. Birch's proposal, if carried into effect, will throw a really large number of men out of medical practice in the metropolis. And the result of such a wholesale ostracism will be that the poor of the town will die from want of treatment.

Again it is not the fact, as Dr. Birch thinks, that all the kabirajes and hakims of Calcutta are well read in their respective systems of medicine, and have passed regular medical examinations. The real reason why kabirajes and hakims have not been included in Dr. Birch's scheme is that there is no competition between them and allopaths. And if medical practitioners not holding degrees had no rivalry with doctors holding medical diplomas, they would also have been excluded from Dr. Birch's scheme. This means that Dr. Birch's proposal is the outcome of a conspiracy amongst the allopaths to put down all competition. That the proposal is intended to damage the cause of homœopathy is also clear.

GARIB & MAHĀVIDYĀ.
Dec. 21st, 1887.

The National Congress.

97. The *Garib and Mahāvidyā*, of the 21st December, observes that it is erroneous to suppose that the reorganisation of the Legislative Councils on a representative basis is all that the people of India at present require, or that such a reorganisation is calculated to remove all their wants and grievances. It must be admitted that the introduction of the elective system into the Legislative Councils of India will lead to the passing of good laws, but the promoters of the National Congress must be mistaken, if they look upon it

in the light of a political panacea. Good laws will be of little use if they are badly worked. But laws are not, and will never be, worked by native legislators. So the country will not gain much by the mere introduction of the elective system into the Legislative Councils. Half the grievances of the people may be removed if the existing laws are worked satisfactorily. Assuming that Government can be induced to allow the natives the privilege of making their laws, there can be no doubt that it will on no account place executive power—the power of abusing laws—in the hands of the natives. It will always be opposed to the policy of the British administration in India to transfer real governing power from the hands of Englishmen to those of the natives.

98. Referring to the remarks of the *Bangabási* newspaper on the

The *Bangabási* newspaper on the introduction of the elective system into this elective system (see Weekly Report on Native Papers for the week ending the 24th December 1887, paragraph 101), the *Hindu Ranjiká*, of the 21st December, says that the cases cited by the *Bangabási* newspaper as showing that the elective principle has not found favour with the Bengali public are not to the point. The objection taken to the candidature of two butchers at Rampore Beauleah or of a Chandal at Seebpore was not owing to caste prejudice, but to the fact that the candidates in question were illiterate people. Every-day facts do not, as argued by the *Bangabási*, prove that the elective system of administration is not suited to this country. They only prove that the rate-payers of this country cannot repose any confidence on persons who have no sense of responsibility and have no idea of what is good or bad for themselves and their countrymen. This accounts for all the heartburning and discontent met with in connection with some of the late municipal elections. For various reasons the elective system may be in some measure abused here and there, but that will not warrant the conclusion that the country is not ripe for its application.

HINDU RANJIKÁ,
Dec. 21st, 1887.

99. The *Sulabh Samáchár* and *Kushdaha*, of the 23rd December, is glad to learn that the notorious Mr. Beames,

Mr. Beames.

Commissioner of the Bhagulpore Division,

SULABH SAMACHAR &
KUSHDAHA,
Dec. 23rd, 1887.

will shortly go home on leave, and the highminded Mr. Cotton will be appointed in his place. If there be truth in the rumour, the people of Bhagulpore must be very fortunate.

100. In reviewing the Government Report on the Sea-borne Trade of Bengal for 1886-87, the *Bangabási*, of the 24th December, observes as follows:—

BANGABÁSI,
Dec. 24th, 1887.

The increase under the head of imported goods is no matter for congratulation to the people of Bengal, because they are deriving no benefit therefrom since the abolition of the import duties. The Lieutenant-Governor has pointed out that the import of cloth manufactured in foreign countries has considerably increased. Year before last, Rs. 10,75,00,000 worth of cloth was imported into this country, while last year Rs. 13,50,00,000 worth of cloth was imported. So there was a decided increase of about three crores of rupees on this head. But this large increase in the importation of foreign cloth means so much loss to the weavers of Bengal.

The export of tea, jute, oilseeds, opium, paddy, gram, wheat, indigo, cotton and silk has increased, the increase in gram and wheat being greatest. This means that the people had to part with their articles of food for money. Bengal can do without the articles which are imported into it, but England cannot do without the articles which are exported from Bengal. So it is precisely the articles which Bengal most wants that are taken away,

and precisely the articles which she least wants that are brought in. And this means that Bengal gains nothing by her sea-borne trade.

The total value of imported articles, besides articles imported by Government last year, amounts to Rs. 29,80,00,000 ; thus import has exceeded export by two crores. This means that Bengal loses by her sea-borne trade.

The English people eat wheat, and therefore no export duty is levied on wheat, and even the railway fare on wheat in India has been reduced. Englishmen do not require rice. Rice is therefore made to pay an export duty of Rs. 22-8.

The people of Bengal will derive no advantage from this sea-borne trade, so long as they do not get what they want in exchange for what they do not require for home consumption.

England exports such articles as she does not herself require. Bengal exports articles which she requires for her own use, and does not get in exchange anything of which she is in real need.

URDU GUIDE,
Dec. 24th, 1887.

The estate of the late Nawab Wajid
Ali Shah.

101. The *Urdu Guide*, of the 24th December, does not agree with those who think that the disposal of the estate of the late Nawab Wajid Ali Shah will be a difficult matter. The writer thinks that a continuance of the allowances granted by the Nawab himself to his Begums, children and dependants will be the easiest settlement of the matter. Lord Dufferin will earn disgrace for himself if he reduces the allowance granted to the late Nawab. It is said that the Nawab's Begums and children will have to leave the Nawab's palace. But they will be put to great inconvenience if they have to do so, because living in the town will be very costly.

SOM PRAKASH,
Dec. 26th, 1887.

The proposed Medical Registration
Law.

102. The *Som Prakash*, of the 26th December, referring to the proposal made by allopathic doctors that all but those who have obtained medical diplomas should be prevented from practising medicine, says that Government should not take any steps in this matter without due enquiry and deliberation, and reminds Government that there are many medical practitioners who hold no medical diplomas, and yet are very skilful physicians.

SOM PRAKASH.

The Budge-Budge taluk.

103. A correspondent of the same paper says that the two new proprietors of the Budge-Budge taluk are trying by illegal means to obtain enhanced rents from tenants who have for a long time paid rent at the same rate. The tenants are poor and ignorant of the law. They are therefore bearing this illegal oppression. It is requested that Government and the local authorities will enquire into the matter.

ASSAM PAPERS.

PARIDARSHAK,
Dec. 19th, 1887.

The Sylhet Municipality.

104. The *Paridarshak*, of the 19th December, says that the financial condition of the Sylhet Municipality is not satisfactory. The construction and repair of bridges will require Rs. 16,000, but the Commissioners do not see how they can raise this amount. They have passed a resolution to the effect that they can get over this difficulty if they are permitted to defer the repayment of the loan taken from Government on account of their water-works for the next four years, and that they will otherwise have to resign. It is hoped that the Government will grant their prayer.

SILCHAR,
Dec. 19th, 1887.

105. The *Silchar*, of the 19th December, states that each of the Medical treatment in public hospitals and tea-gardens. different prevailing systems of medical treatment has recommendations peculiar to itself.

Allopathy is most efficacious in cases involving surgical operations, the Ayurvedic system is of peculiar value in such wasting diseases as phthisis, consumption, dyspepsia and piles, while the power of homœopathy in checking any sudden development of alarming symptoms is very well known. As the large Government hospitals are resorted to by men suffering from disorders of various kinds, and as only one system of treatment is followed in them, many lives are lost which could be saved if Government employed kabirajes in its hospitals. Many European residents of Calcutta have from time to time placed themselves under the treatment of kabirajes like Ramanath and Gangaprasad, and derived great benefit by so doing. Why should not such kabirajes be then employed in the hospitals? If the Government fails to adopt this suggestion, the *Silchar* will not hesitate to call it selfish, self-willed, unjust and open to the charge of deliberately sacrificing human life. The writer calls upon its contemporaries to agitate this subject, and says that he has heard with pleasure that the Calcutta Medical Society will petition the Bengal Government to pass a Medical Registration Law. The best results are expected from this law which the Bengal Government should lose no time in passing. The law aims at putting down quacks and preventing premature death. The law should be extended gradually to the mofussil. The writer also says that there should be a diploma-holding doctor in every one of the tea-plantations in Assam. There are many tea-plantations which do not employ such doctors, and the Government should keep a sharp eye on them. It is true that the Deputy Commissioners of districts occasionally visit the tea-gardens, but their examination of them seems to take the shape of merry-making and feasting. How miserable is India? How great are her wants? But who is there to listen to these complaints?

106. The same paper says that molasses, vegetables, and other things produced in the jails are at present vended about and sold to retail purchasers. SILCHAR.

The sale of jail produce.

This causes loss to Government, as the convicts employed for this purpose might otherwise be profitably employed within the jail precincts. It would be a better plan to dispose of these things wholesale to bazar dealers, even at a lower rate of profit. Convicts would then be prevented from going about in a state of liberty.

107. The same paper says that the Deputy Commissioner, Mr. SILCHAR.

Mr. Arbuthnot, the Deputy Commissioner.

Arbuthnot, causes great public inconvenience by his irregularity in attending office, and by constantly putting off cases that come before him. For a man who is charged with the administration of a district to be so irregular is distressing in the extreme.

108. The same paper says that as the gurus of pathshalas in those parts are so ill-educated, they should be frequently subjected to inspection, and that for this purpose, in addition to Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors, the pundits of middle class schools should, as in Bengal, be made to visit neighbouring pathshalas, and receive an allowance of two annas for each pathshala visited. The attention of the Deputy Commissioner is drawn to this matter. SILCHAR.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,
Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

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